

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1494

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1821

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ABLD PFOR SO US

SUBJ: EMBASSY COMPOUND

REF: MOGADISCIO 1812

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE RECOMMENDS THAT WE MEET WITH REPS OF FONOFF AND MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS ON COMPOUND AND OUTLINES WHAT EMBASSY BELIEVES OUR BASIC POSITION IN SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD BE. END SUMMARY.

2. BELIEVE WE SHOULD AGREE TO EARLY MEETINGS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSY, FONOFF AND MIN PUBLIC WORKS, AS SUGGESTED BY FONMIN. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT COMPLETION OF SOME OF BUILDINGS ON COMPOUND IS DESIRABLE. GSDR CLEARLY HAS POWER TO PREVENT SUCH CONSTRUCTION AND HAS USED THIS POWER IN PAST. SIAD HAS SAID THAT THIS IS MATTER FOR FONOFF AND MIN PUBLIC WORKS AND FONMIN HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS.

3. WE WOULD CONTINUE, IN SUCH MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE OF THEM, TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CLARIFICATION OF VALLEJO CASE AS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

4. BELIEVE OUR BASIC POSTURE IN TRIPARTITE MEETINGS WITH SOMALIS SHOULD BE THAT WE WISH TO PROCEED PROMPTLY WITH CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS ON OUR OWN PROPERTY, TO WHICH WE HAVE HELD LEGITIMATE TITLE FOR MANY YEARS. IT IS SOMALIS WHO ARE RAISING DIFFICULTIES. THEREFORE, IT IS UP TO THEM INITIALLY
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TO EXPLAIN THEIR VIEWS.

5. SHOULD SOMALIS RAISE ANY QUESTION OF "RECIPROCAL" GRANTING OF PROPERTY TO GSDR IN US IN CONFORMITY WITH NEW SOMALI LAW WE WOULD PROMPTLY AND FIRMLY REJECT IDEA. NEW LAW CANNOT RETROACTIVELY AFFECT OUR LONGSTANDING TITLE TO OUR PROPERTY, ON WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY SPENT VERY CONSIDERABLE SUMS. SOMALI EMBASSY FACILITIES IN WASHINGTON ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED QUESTION WHICH SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY AND IN WASHINGTON.

6. IF SOMALIS RAISE QUESTION OF OUR MOVING TO ANOTHER SITE, WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR DOING SO UNLESS SOMALIS REIMBURSE US FOR OUR IMPROVEMENTS TO PRESENT PROPERTY. (WE WOULD NEED UP TO DATE FIGURE FOR VALUE OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS.)

7. WE WOULD, AS DISCUSSIONS PROCEED, SEEK ASSURANCES THAT GSDR WOULD NOT RPT NOT OBSTRUCT BUILDING PROGRAM. WE WOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF VALLEJO TO ORDERLY AND PROMPT COMPLETION OF PROJECT. WE WOULD REQUEST THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK ON PROJECT OR THAT, IF THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, GSDR PROMISE TO EXPEDITE VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR A NEW PROJECT SUPERVISOR SO THAT WORK COULD BEGIN SOONEST.

8. EMBASSY ITSELF FEELS THAT PRESENT COMPOUND IS LARGER THAN NEEDED AND THAT WE COULD RELINQUISH PORTIONS OF IT TO GSDR IF NECESSARY TO GET THEIR ACQUIESCENCE TO COMPLETION OF OUR BUILDING PROGRAM. MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR CESSION APPEAR TO US TO BE:

- A. FIVE-METER STRIP ALONG EAST ROAD;
- B. GOLF COURSE, NOT INCLUDING GOLF/TENNIS CLUBHOUSE;
- C. IF NECESSARY, AFGOI ROAD FRONTAGE WITH EXCEPTION OF SCHOOL (WHICH WE SHOULD FIRMLY HOLD ON TO) AND (HOPEFULLY) CENTRAL ENTRANCE GATE TO CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP PRESENT WEST SIDE ACCESS FROM AFGOI ROAD TO SCHOOL, GSO BUILDINGS AND GOLF/TENNIS CLUB.

9. WE COULD RECOMMEND TO GSDR THAT GOLF COURSE BE KEPT AS SUCH FOR RECREATION USE BY SOMALI AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, BUT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GSDR MAY WELL NOT AGREE AND WE SHOULD

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NOT MAKE THIS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION. WE WOULD STRESS TO GSDR IMPORTANCE OF ANY LAND CEDED BY US BEING USED FOR SUITABLE PURPOSES - EMBASSIES, MINISTRIES OR PERHAPS THE UNIVERSITY - BUT WE MUST AGAIN RECOGNIZE THAT ONCE GSDR HAS TAKEN OVER THE PROPERTY WE WILL HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER WHAT THEY DO WITH IT.

10. WE WOULD LIKE TO LINK TIMING OF CESSION OF LAND TO PROGRESS IN OUR OWN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. THUS, FIVE-METER STRIP

COULD BE CEDED ONCE WALL BUILT ALONG THAT SIDE, WHILE GOLF COURSE AND AFGOI FRONTAGE (ASSUMING WE HAVE TO RELINQUISH THIS) SHOULD PREFERABLY BE TURNED OVER ONLY AFTER COMPLETION OF CHANCERY AND ENCLOSURE OF OUR REMAINING PROPERTY.

11. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY ADVICE ON THESE POINTS SO THAT WE CAN GET STARTED REASONABLY PROMPTLY ON WHAT WILL PROBABLY PROVE TO BE FAIRLY PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS WITH GSDR, DURING COURSE OF WHICH WE WOULD OF COURSE BE IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT.

12. IN MEANTIME WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE GSO OPERATIONS ON COMPOUND. WE ARE ALSO IN SEPTEL REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH STEP-BY-STEP INSTALLATION OF MUNICIPAL POWER FOR COMPOUND.

13. WE HAVE, INCIDENTALLY, LEARNED FROM ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD GSDR IT IS WILLING TO GIVE UP ITS LAND ADJOINING OURS FOR THE UNIVERSITY, BUT HAS ASKED THAT IT BE GIVEN ANOTHER SUITABLE SITE IN EXCHANGE. ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS HAD NO REPLY TO ITS NOTE OF TWO MONTHS AGO CONVEYING THIS POSITION TO GSDR. KIRK

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